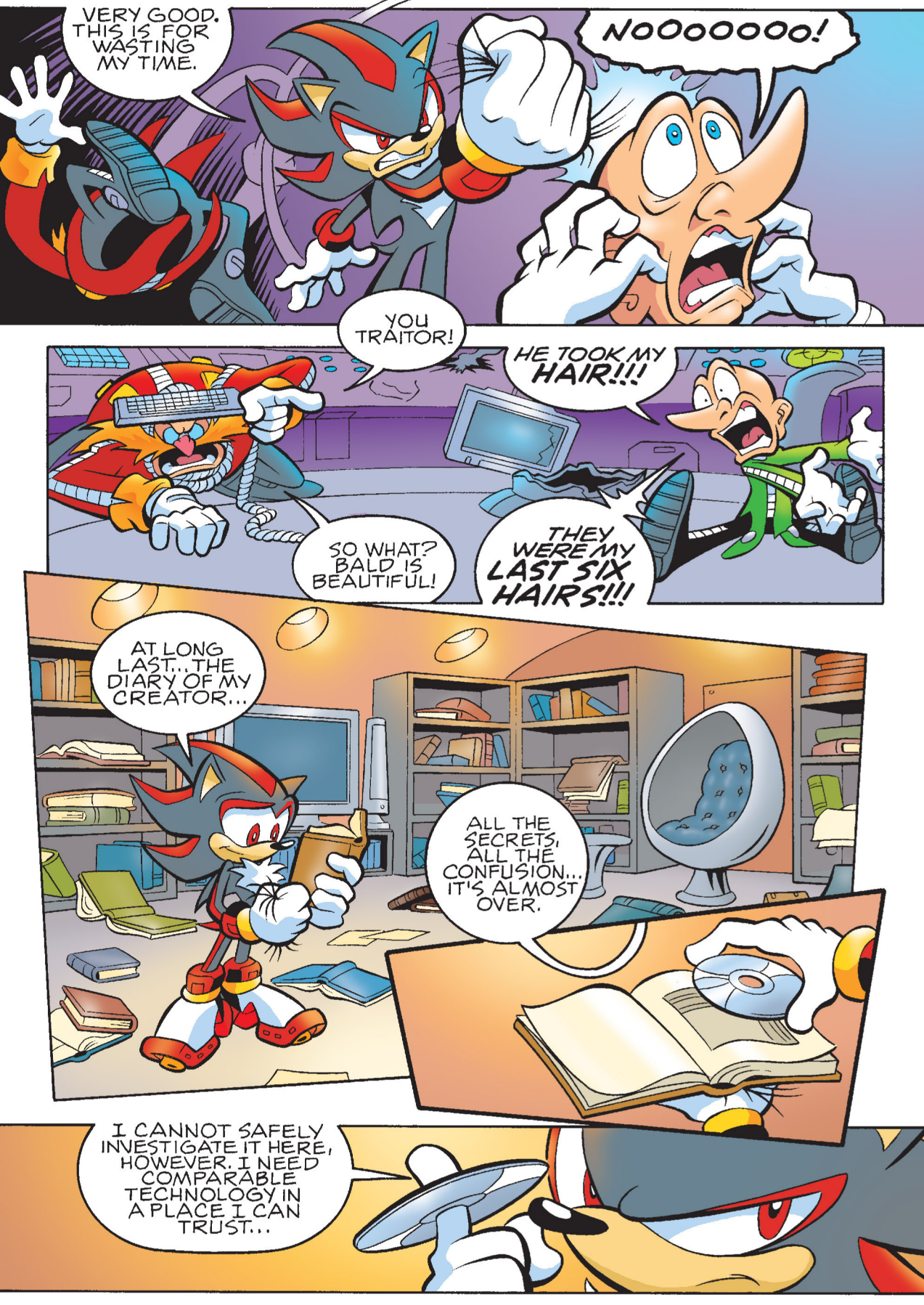
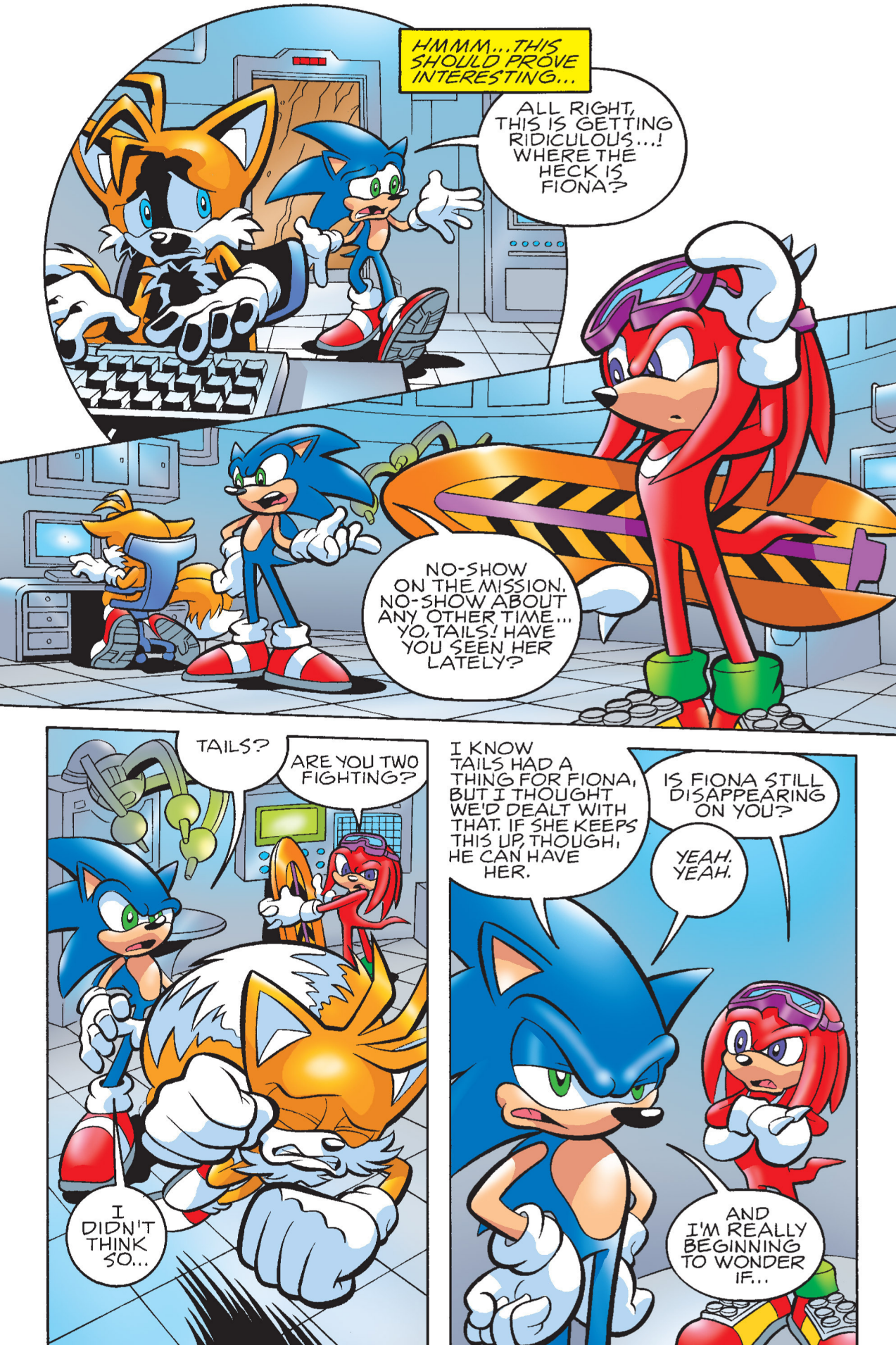
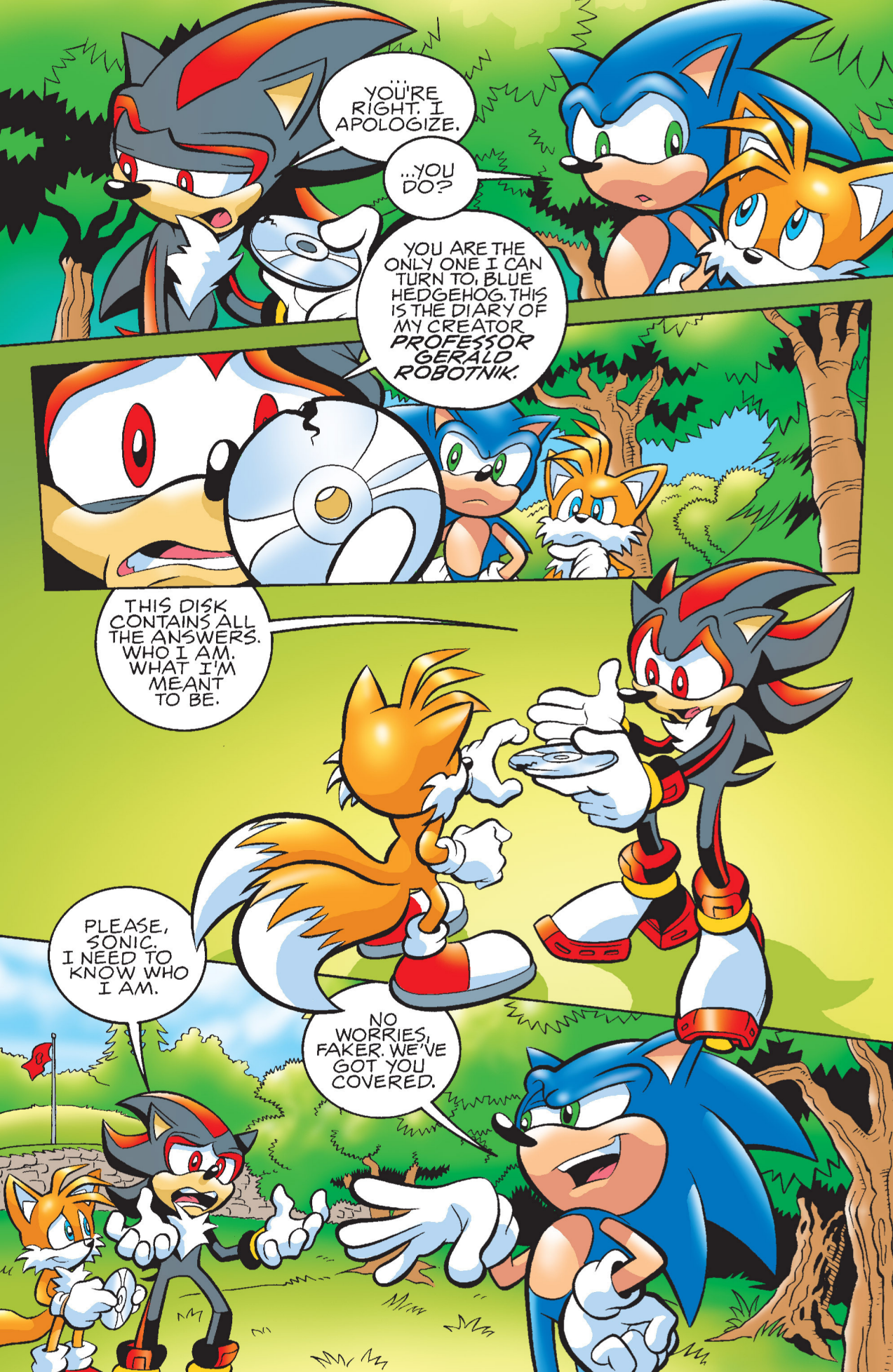
THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
Archie 65TH ANNIVERSARY
171
$2.25 US
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SEGA
Tracy Yardley!
-Jim Amash '06!
Jensen!

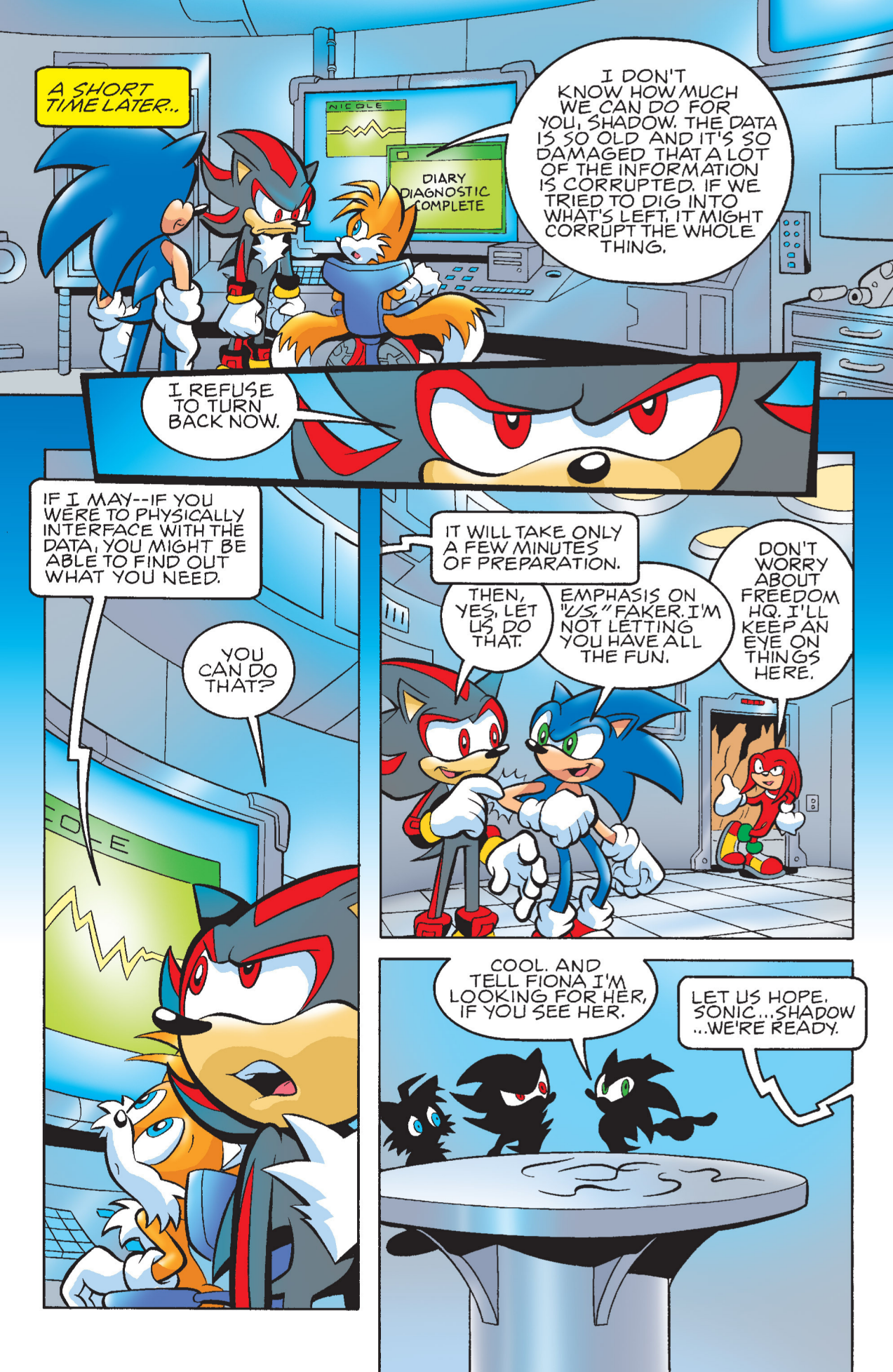
I AM
I WILL ASK YOU ONE LAST TIME, DOCTOR. WHERE IS PROFESSOR GERALD'S DIARY?
GRAND-FATHER'S DIARY IS MINE, JUST LIKE YOU, SHADOW! I COMMAND YOU TO RELEASE ME!
Writer: IAN FLYNN
Artist: TRACY YARDLEY!
Inker: JIM AMASH
Letterer: JOHN WORKMAN
Colorist: JASON JENSEN
Editor: MIKE PELLERITO
Cover Art: YARDLEY!/AMASH JENSEN
Managing Editor: VICTOR GORELICK
Editor in Chief: RICHARD GOLDWATER
SNIVELY, WHERE IS THE DIARY?
Special thanks to ROBERT LEFFLER and DYNA LOPEZ at SEGA Licensing
ANY-THING BUT THE HAIR, I BEG OF YOU...!
THE DIARY.
UNCLE ROBOTNIK'S PRIVATE STUDY! I SWEAR!


VERY GOOD. THIS IS FOR WASTING MY TIME.
NOOOOOOO!
YOU TRAITOR!
HE TOOK MY HAIR!!!
SO WHAT? BALD IS BEAUTIFUL!
THEY WERE MY LAST SIX HAIRS!!!
AT LONG LAST...THE DIARY OF MY CREATOR...
ALL THE SECRETS, ALL THE CONFUSION... IT'S ALMOST OVER.
I CANNOT SAFELY INVESTIGATE IT HERE, HOWEVER. I NEED COMPARABLE TECHNOLOGY IN A PLACE I CAN TRUST...

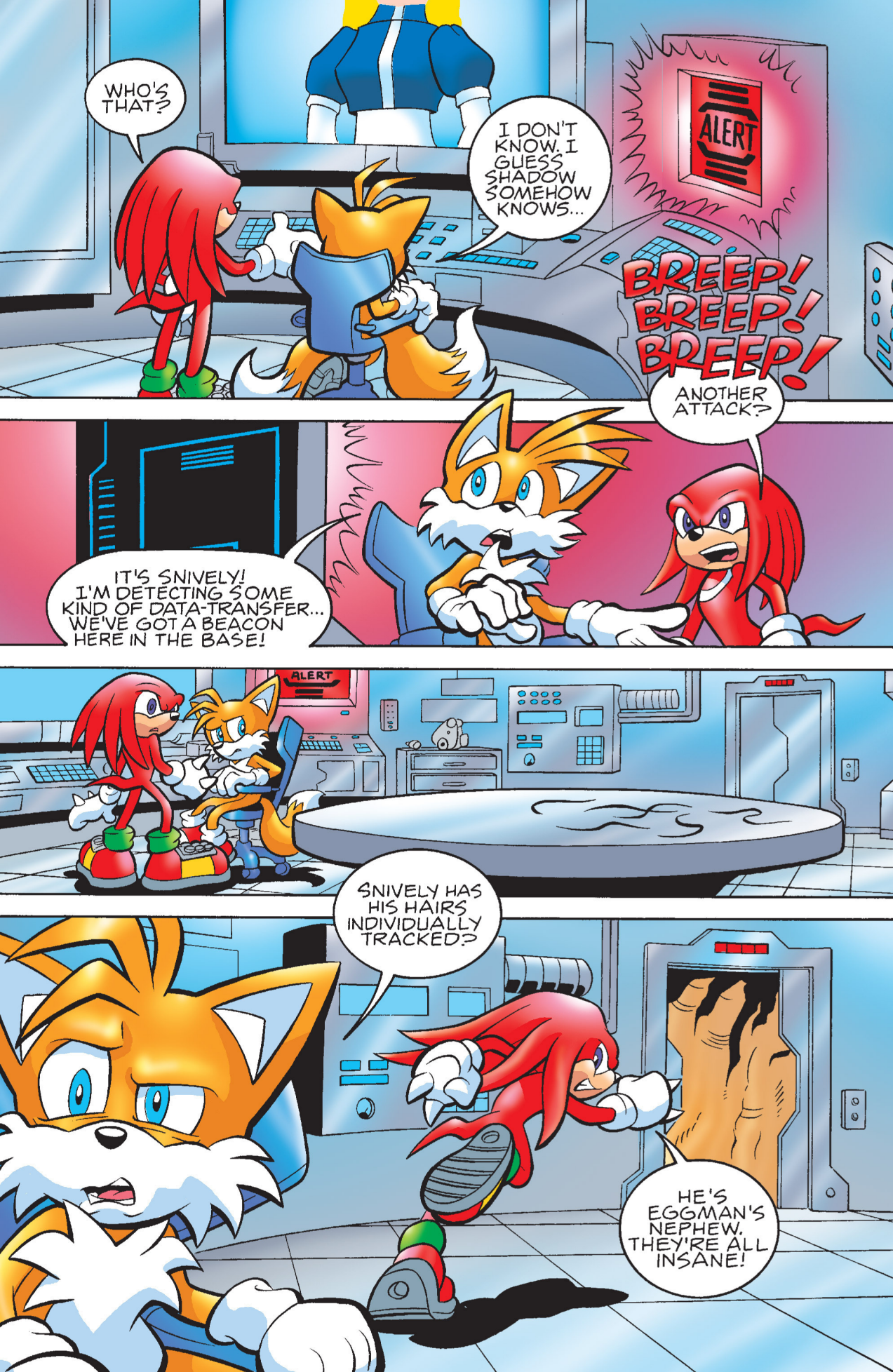

HMMM...THIS SHOULD PROVE INTERESTING...
ALL RIGHT, THIS IS GETTING RIDICULOUS...! WHERE THE HECK IS FIONA?
NO-SHOW ON THE MISSION. NO-SHOW ABOUT ANY OTHER TIME... YO, TAILS! HAVE YOU SEEN HER LATELY?
TAILS?
ARE YOU TWO FIGHTING?
I DIDN'T THINK SO...
I KNOW TAILS HAD A THING FOR FIONA, BUT I THOUGHT WE'D DEALT WITH THAT. IF SHE KEEPS THIS UP, THOUGH, HE CAN HAVE HER.
IS FIONA STILL DISAPPEARING ON YOU?
YEAH. YEAH.
AND I'M REALLY BEGINNING TO WONDER IF...

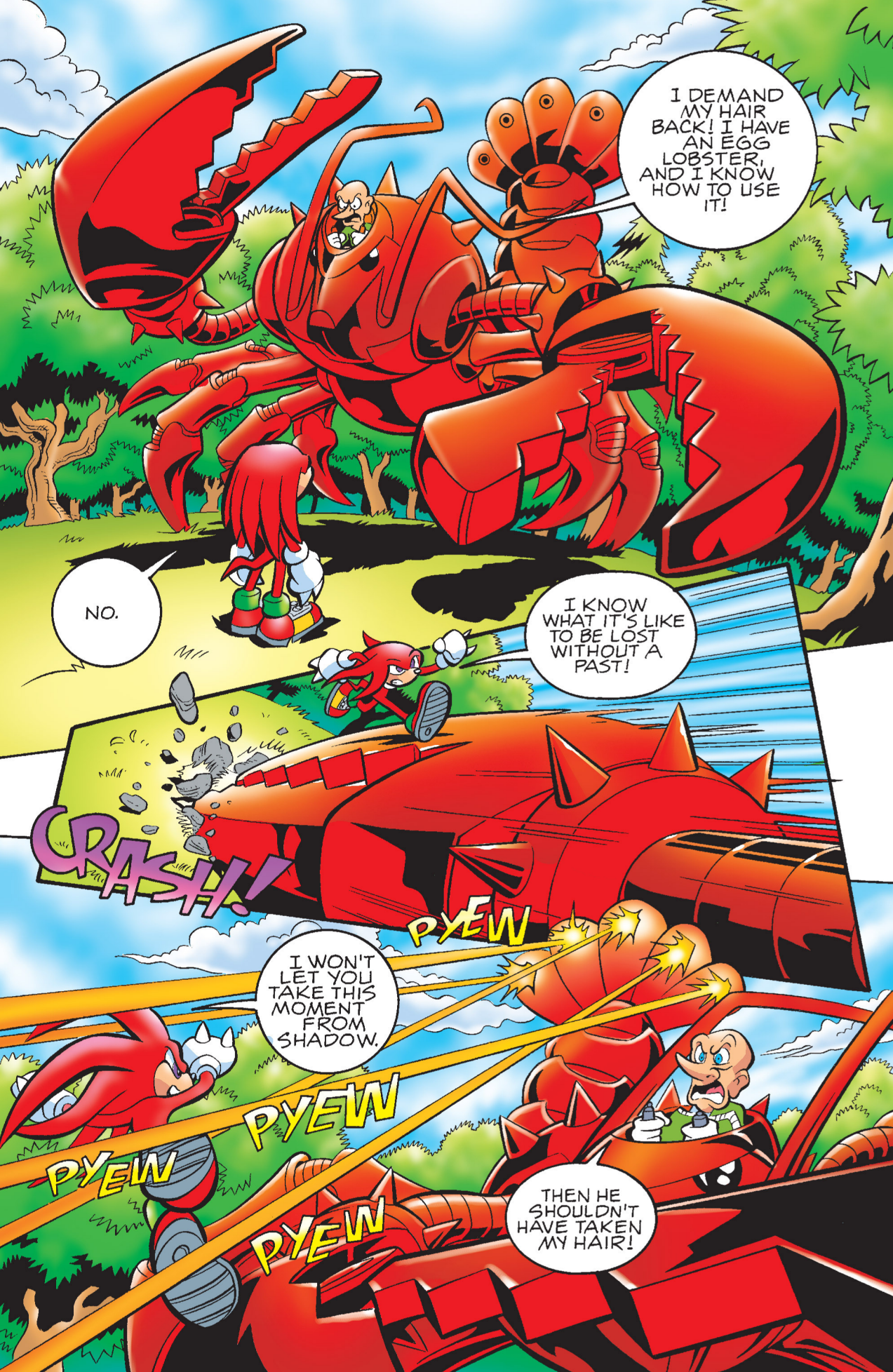
SONIC!
HA! I KNEW HE'D COME AROUND!
IT'S SHADOW! HE'S HEADED THIS WAY--
--AND HE'S UNDER ATTACK!
NO!
KLZZ!
SMASH!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP MEETING LIKE THIS.
YOU COULDN'T SHOW UP TEN SECONDS EARLIER!
WHY, YOU'RE WELCOME, SHADOW. I'M GLAD WE COULD HELP. YOUR PROFUSE GRATITUDE IS TOUCHING.


...YOU'RE RIGHT. I APOLOGIZE.
...YOU DO?
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TURN TO, BLUE HEDGEHOG. THIS IS THE DIARY OF MY CREATOR PROFESSOR GERALD ROBOTNIK.
THIS DISK CONTAINS ALL THE ANSWERS. WHO I AM. WHAT I'M MEANT TO BE.
PLEASE, SONIC. I NEED TO KNOW WHO I AM.
NO WORRIES, FAKER. WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

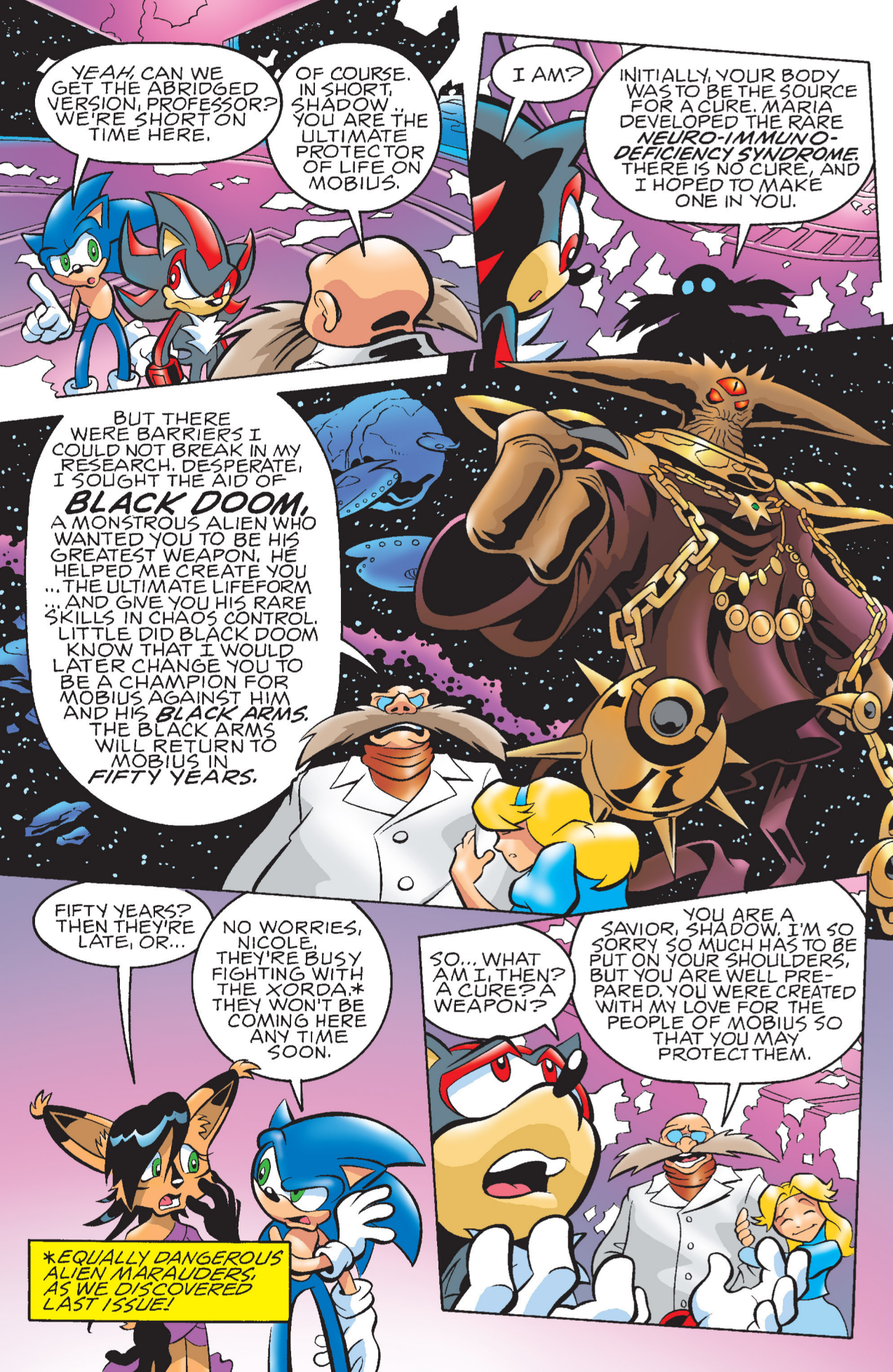

A SHORT TIME LATER...
NICOLE
DIARY DIAGNOSTIC COMPLETE
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH WE CAN DO FOR YOU, SHADOW. THE DATA IS SO OLD AND IT'S SO DAMAGED THAT A LOT OF THE INFORMATION IS CORRUPTED. IF WE TRIED TO DIG INTO WHAT'S LEFT, IT MIGHT CORRUPT THE WHOLE THING.
I REFUSE TO TURN BACK NOW.
IF I MAY--IF YOU WERE TO PHYSICALLY INTERFACE WITH THE DATA, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU NEED.
YOU CAN DO THAT?
IT WILL TAKE ONLY A FEW MINUTES OF PREPARATION.
THEN, YES, LET US DO THAT.
EMPHASIS ON "US," FAKER. I'M NOT LETTING YOU HAVE ALL THE FUN.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT FREEDOM HQ. I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS HERE.
COOL. AND TELL FIONA I'M LOOKING FOR HER, IF YOU SEE HER.
LET US HOPE, SONIC...SHADOW ...WE'RE READY.

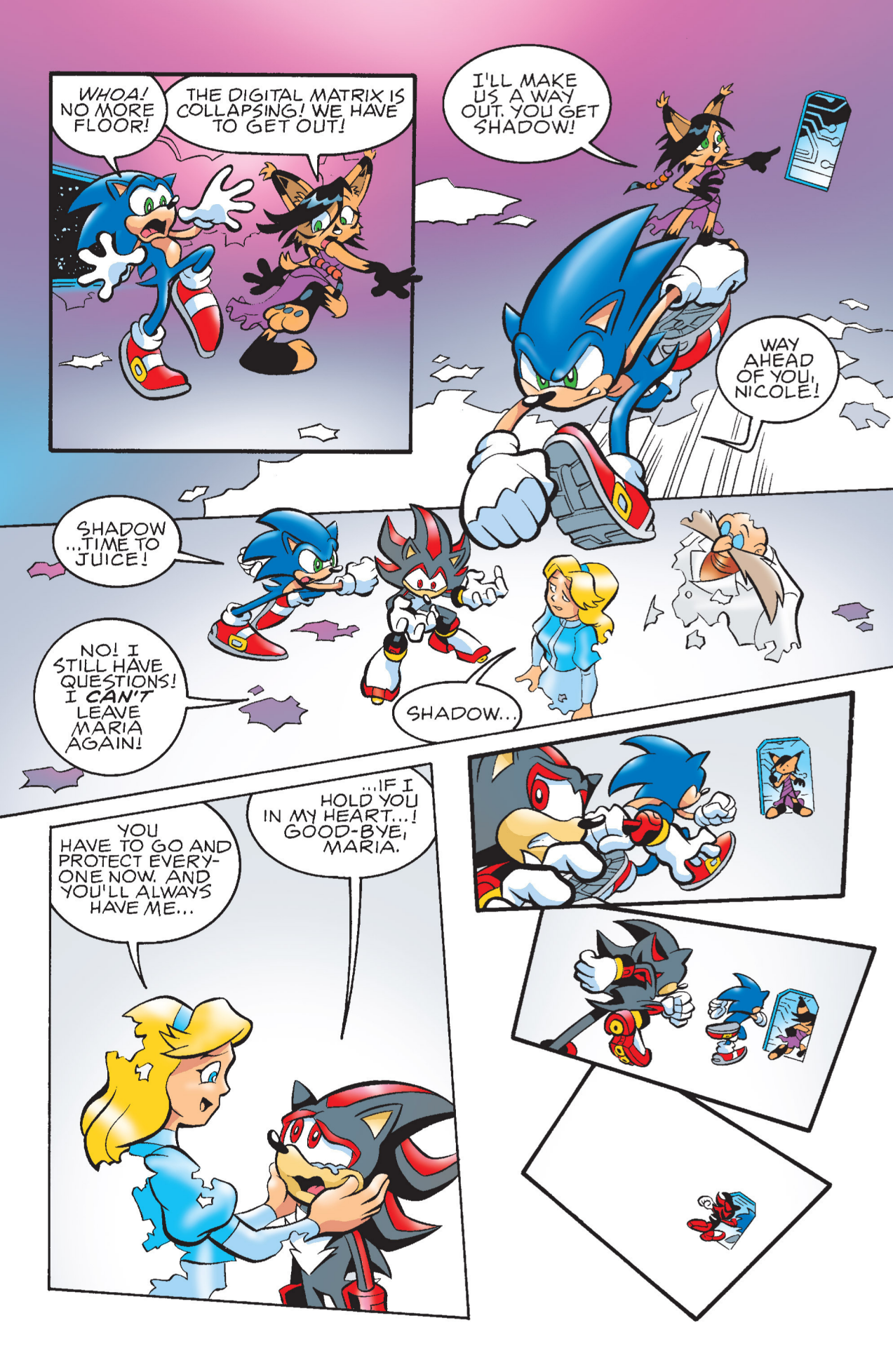
INSIDE GERALD'S DIARY...
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE CREATED?
YES.
HOMEY.
IT'S JUST AS I FEARED. OUR VERY PRESENCE IS ACCELERATING THE DEGRADATION. WE NEED TO BE QUICK.
NICOLE ?!
I... YES, I'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING CORPOREAL LIFE AS A SIDE-PROJECT.*
SWEET! I LIKE THE LOOK.
THANK YOU. I'VE RUN INTO SOME DIFFICULTIES, BUT...
I THOUGHT YOU SAID WE NEEDED TO BE QUICK.
*AS SEEN IN STH #151.
SHADOW! WELCOME BACK!
YOU!


WHO'S THAT?
I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS SHADOW SOMEHOW KNOWS...
ALERT
BREEP! BREEP! BREEP!
ANOTHER ATTACK?
IT'S SNIVELY! I'M DETECTING SOME KIND OF DATA-TRANSFER... WE'VE GOT A BEACON HERE IN THE BASE!
ALERT
SNIVELY HAS HIS HAIRS INDIVIDUALLY TRACKED?
HE'S EGGMAN'S NEPHEW. THEY'RE ALL INSANE!

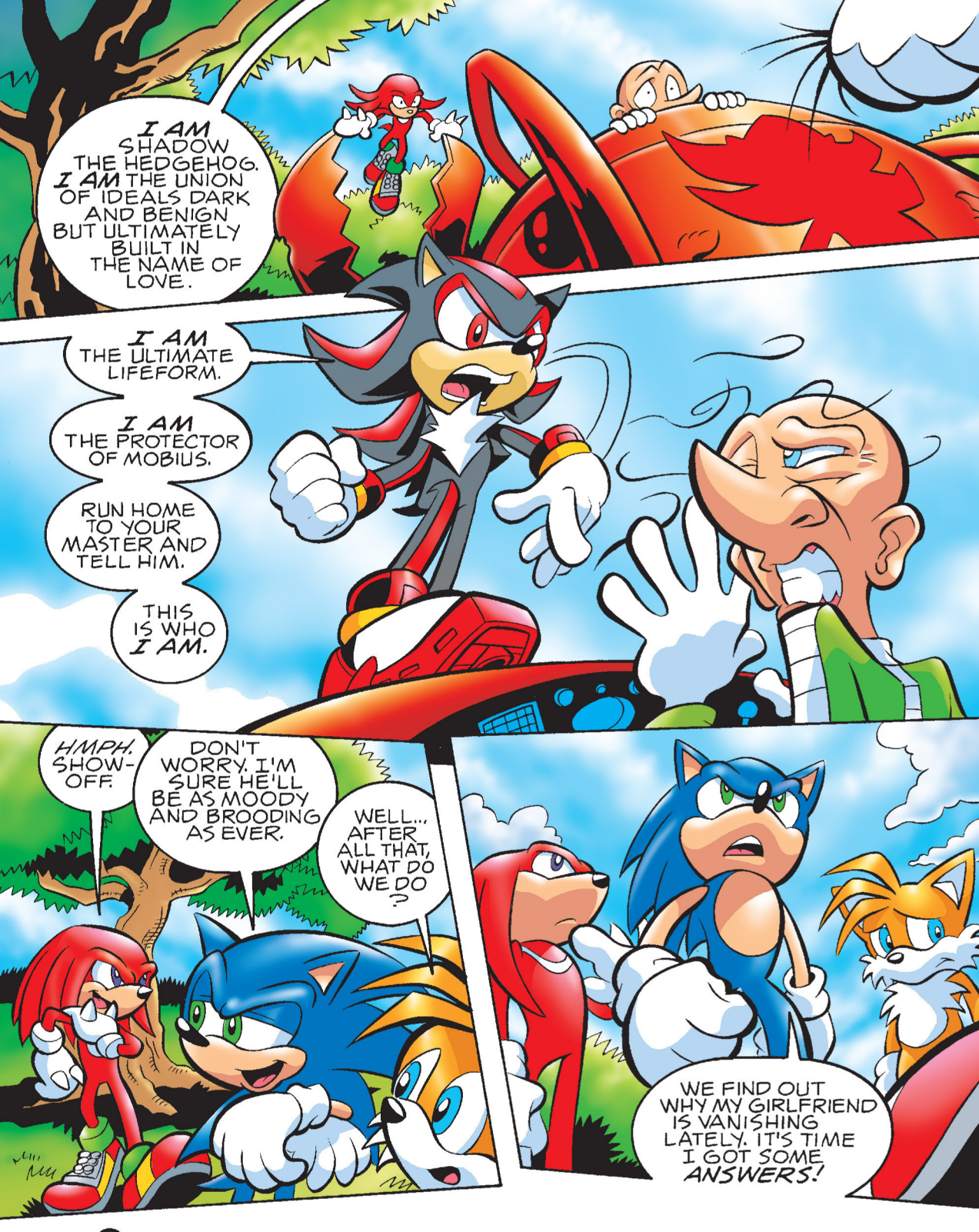

I DEMAND MY HAIR BACK! I HAVE AN EGG LOBSTER, AND I KNOW HOW TO USE IT!
NO.
I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE LOST WITHOUT A PAST!
CRASH!
PYEW
I WON'T LET YOU TAKE THIS MOMENT FROM SHADOW.
PYEW
PYEW
PYEW
THEN HE SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MY HAIR!

INSIDE GERALD'S DIARY...
MARIA... I THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU FOREVER.
DON'T BE SILLY, SHADOW. AS LONG AS YOU HOLD ME IN YOUR HEART AND THOUGHTS, WE'LL NEVER BE APART!
WHO ARE YOUR FRIENDS?
FRIENDS ...?
YEAH, HI, WE'RE STILL HERE. WE'RE HERE TO GET SOME ANSWERS, REMEMBER?
OF... OF COURSE...
MARIA, I HAVE BEEN IN CAPTIVITY FOR THE PAST FIFTY YEARS. I'VE FORGOTTEN MY PURPOSE... WHO I AM... PLEASE, TELL ME...
:GASP!: FIFTY YEARS? WE NEED TO SPEAK TO GRANDFATHER RIGHT AWAY!
WE MAY HAVE TO CUT THIS SHORT. THE DATA IS FRAGMENTING FAST...
I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL I KNOW EVERYTHING.
THEN KNOW EVERYTHING, YOU SHALL...
HELLO, SON. FIFTY YEARS IS A LONG TIME TO WANDER IN THE DARK.


YEAH, CAN WE GET THE ABRIDGED VERSION, PROFESSOR? WE'RE SHORT ON TIME HERE.
OF COURSE. IN SHORT, SHADOW.., YOU ARE THE ULTIMATE PROTECTOR OF LIFE ON MOBIUS.
I AM?
INITIALLY, YOUR BODY WAS TO BE THE SOURCE FOR A CURE. MARIA DEVELOPED THE RARE NEURO-IMMUNO-DEFICIENCY SYNDROME. THERE IS NO CURE, AND I HOPED TO MAKE ONE IN YOU.
BUT THERE WERE BARRIERS I COULD NOT BREAK IN MY RESEARCH. DESPERATE, I SOUGHT THE AID OF BLACK DOOM, A MONSTROUS ALIEN WHO WANTED YOU TO BE HIS GREATEST WEAPON. HE HELPED ME CREATE YOU ... THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM ... AND GIVE YOU HIS RARE SKILLS IN CHAOS CONTROL. LITTLE DID BLACK DOOM KNOW THAT I WOULD LATER CHANGE YOU TO BE A CHAMPION FOR MOBIUS AGAINST HIM AND HIS BLACK ARMS. THE BLACK ARMS WILL RETURN TO MOBIUS IN FIFTY YEARS.
FIFTY YEARS? THEN THEY'RE LATE, OR...
NO WORRIES, NICOLE, THEY'RE BUSY FIGHTING WITH THE XORDA.* THEY WON'T BE COMING HERE ANY TIME SOON.
*EQUALLY DANGEROUS ALIEN MARAUDERS, AS WE DISCOVERED LAST ISSUE!
SO... WHAT AM I, THEN? A CURE? A WEAPON?
YOU ARE A SAVIOR, SHADOW. I'M SO SORRY SO MUCH HAS TO BE PUT ON YOUR SHOULDERS, BUT YOU ARE WELL PREPARED. YOU WERE CREATED WITH MY LOVE FOR THE PEOPLE OF MOBIUS SO THAT YOU MAY PROTECT THEM.

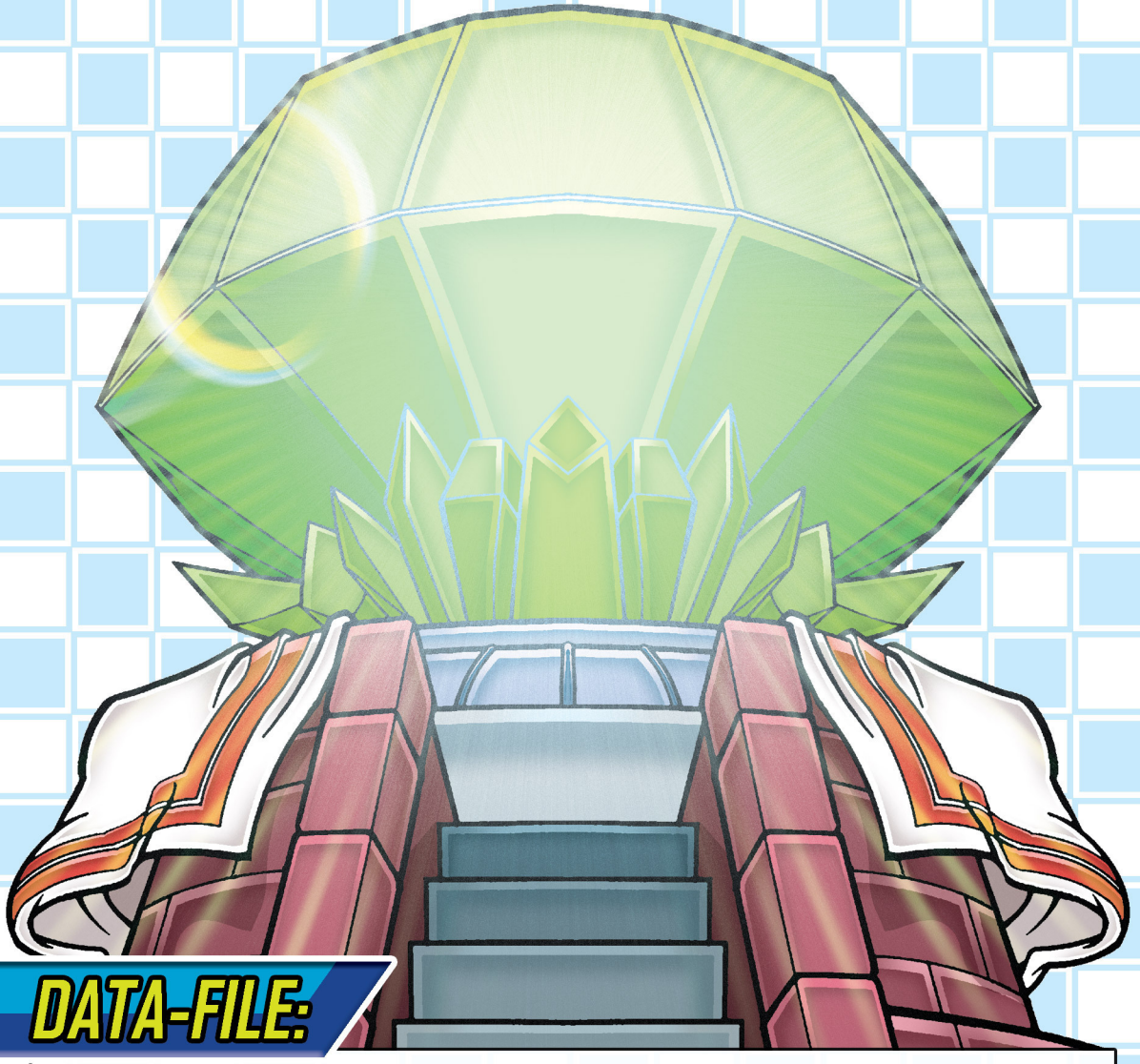

WHOA! NO MORE FLOOR!
THE DIGITAL MATRIX IS COLLAPSING! WE HAVE TO GET OUT!
I'LL MAKE US A WAY OUT. YOU GET SHADOW!
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, NICOLE!
SHADOW ...TIME TO JUICE!
NO! I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS! I CAN'T LEAVE MARIA AGAIN!
SHADOW...
...IF I HOLD YOU IN MY HEART...! GOOD-BYE, MARIA.
YOU HAVE TO GO AND PROTECT EVERY-ONE NOW. AND YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE ME...

FWASH!
WHOO-HA! WHAT A RIDE!
SONIC!
I'M GLAD YOU GUYS ARE BACK!
DITTO! DID FIONA EVER--?
SNIVELY'S ATTACKING OUTSIDE, AND KNUCKLES IS FENDING HIM OFF ALL BY HIMSELF!
WHAT? WHY?
HE WANTS HIS HAIR BACK!
ALL I WANTED WAS MY HAIR, YOU IDIOT! NOW YOU'LL BE CRUSHED FOR WASTING MY TIME!


I AM SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG. I AM THE UNION OF IDEALS DARK AND BENIGN BUT ULTIMATELY BUILT IN THE NAME OF LOVE.
I AM THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM.
I AM THE PROTECTOR OF MOBIUS.
RUN HOME TO YOUR MASTER AND TELL HIM.
THIS IS WHO I AM.
HMPH. SHOW-OFF.
DON'T WORRY. I'M SURE HE'LL BE AS MOODY AND BROODING AS EVER.
WELL... AFTER ALL THAT, WHAT DO WE DO?
WE FIND OUT WHY MY GIRLFRIEND IS VANISHING LATELY. IT'S TIME I GOT SOME ANSWERS!

ONE MYSTERY IS SOLVED WHILE ANOTHER REMAINS! COME BACK FOR MORE, WHEN WE SEE WHAT IS THE "TRUTH OF THE HEART!"

MASTER EMERALD



DATA-FILE:

First game appearance: Sonic & Knuckles (Sega Genesis)
First comic appearance: Sonic the Hedgehog #56

The story of the Master Emerald dates back roughly 600 years. It began on Angel Island, which was then held aloft by twelve Chaos Emeralds. The echidna scientist Dimitri tried to drain them of their power to return Angel Island to its mainland home. Instead, the power of eleven of those Chaos Emeralds became infused within him. He became the tyrant Enerjak and was sealed away for generations.

Relatively recently, the villain Mammoth Mogul sought to gain ultimate control of Mobius. Mogul possessed one Chaos Emerald of his own and manipulated events so that he could steal the power of the eleven from Enerjak. Now with the power of twelve Chaos Emeralds within him, Mogul made a bid for world domination. Instead, he received a beating from Super Sonic, Hyper Knuckles and Turbo Tails.

Desperate for an edge, Mogul attempted to absorb the power of the two Chaos Emeralds that remained on Angel Island. The Brotherhood of Guardians took that moment to attack. The resulting mixture of energies created the single, massive Master Emerald with Mogul's spirit trapped inside.

Shortly after this, Dr. Eggman shattered the Master Emerald to strengthen Chaos, thus freeing Mogul. Knuckles the Echidna managed to repair it by gathering all of the shards. It was later protected from the Gathering by a joint effort by Guardian Locke and Dr. Finitevus. The Master Emerald now remains hidden on Angel Island, keeping it flying high above Mobius.

INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Spaz
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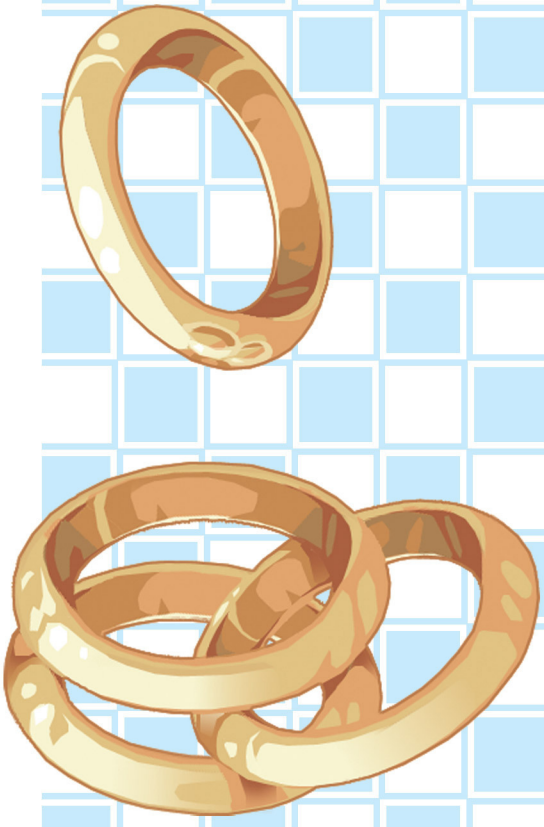
POWER RINGS



DATA-FILE:

Thousands of years ago, the reign of the mobosaurs was brought to an end by the Coming of the Chaos Emeralds. Thousands of the green gemstones showered Mobius. These mystical gems are said to have limitless magical energy and have been seen to create whole Zones on their own. They have been used by hero and villain alike to shape the course of history.

There were once hundreds of thousands of the Chaos Emeralds throughout the galaxy until the Gathering. Turbo Tails, with the aid of others, summoned all the Chaos Emeralds and transferred them to the Special Zone. There the gems fused into seven colored stones: grey, blue, cyan, purple, red, green and yellow.

Magic Rings are the natural by-products of Chaos Emeralds. These golden bands can grant the user a number of special abilities, most notably increased resilience and physical prowess. They can be found littered throughout many Zones and can be used by both man and machine alike.

They can also be created by artificial means. The process was first pioneered by an Overlander scientist named Nate Morgan. His work inspired - and was later carried on by - Sir Charles Hedgehog, the uncle of Sonic the Hedgehog. The artificial rings are no less powerful than their natural counterparts and seem to interact with the Chaos Emeralds in the same, if mysterious, way.

Finally, there are an elite few on Mobius who can channel the powers of these items to transform into Super-forms; Sonic being chief among them. With fifty Magic Rings and seven Chaos Emeralds, these few gain powers beyond those of mortal Mobians.

CHAOS EMERALDS

INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: J. Axer

CHAO

DATA-FILE:

First game appearance: Sonic Adventure (Sega Dreamcast)
First comic appearance: Sonic the Hedgehog #82

Chao are mysterious but lovable creatures that live almost exclusively in Chao Gardens. Spawned by Chaos, chao hatch from eggs. They go into a cocoon before entering adolescence and then again at the end of adulthood, emerging as an egg once more. In special cases, after a number of "resurrections," a chao may evolve into a form that makes it immortal!

Chao are very special in that they can borrow the traits of animals they come in contact with. Their shape and color changes as they mature into one of five specific types: Running, Flying, Swimming, Power and Normal. However, a well-balanced chao can look like it did on the day it hatched.

Whoever raises the chao also affects its development. If a virtuous person raises a chao, it will probably mature into a kind of Hero Chao. If someone who isn't so virtuous raises the chao, however, it can turn into a kind of Dark Chao. Whether Dark, Hero or normal, all chao are cute and loving!

Finally, while chao cannot talk, they have a very distinct form of communication: their emotion-dot. The emotion-dot, which floats above a chao's head, will change shape depending on what it thinks or feels.

INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: J. Axer
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FLICKY BIRDS

DATA-FILE:

First game appearance: Sonic 3-D Blast (Sega Genesis, Sega Saturn)
First comic appearance: Sonic Blast #1

Flickies are a kind of colorful bird that live almost exclusively on the atoll called Flicky Island. Peaceful and friendly, Flicky birds feed on the strange bejeweled plants of their home. When they gather into flocks, it is said they can create Warp Rings to other Zones!

Sonic the Hedgehog first encountered the Flicky birds when the original Dr. Robotnik invaded their island. Dr. Robotnik was searching for the island's Chaos Emerald and was roboticizing the defenseless Flickies on his way. Sonic, Tails and Rotor rushed to the rescue, saving the Flickies and closing the gateway to the Flicky Zone.

There have been Flicky sightings in Knothole City recently, however. Have the Flickies returned or is this an entirely new flock? Only time will tell!

INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: J. Axer

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SONIC-GRAMS

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HAPPY NEW YEAR! TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S COMING UP THIS YEAR FOR SONIC:

PLUS: LOOK FOR THE NEXT VOLUMES OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG ARCHIVES 3 & 4! (hope you got volumes 1 & 2 already!)

FOR EVEN MORE SONIC ADVENTURE CHECK OUT SONIC X!

SONIC X™

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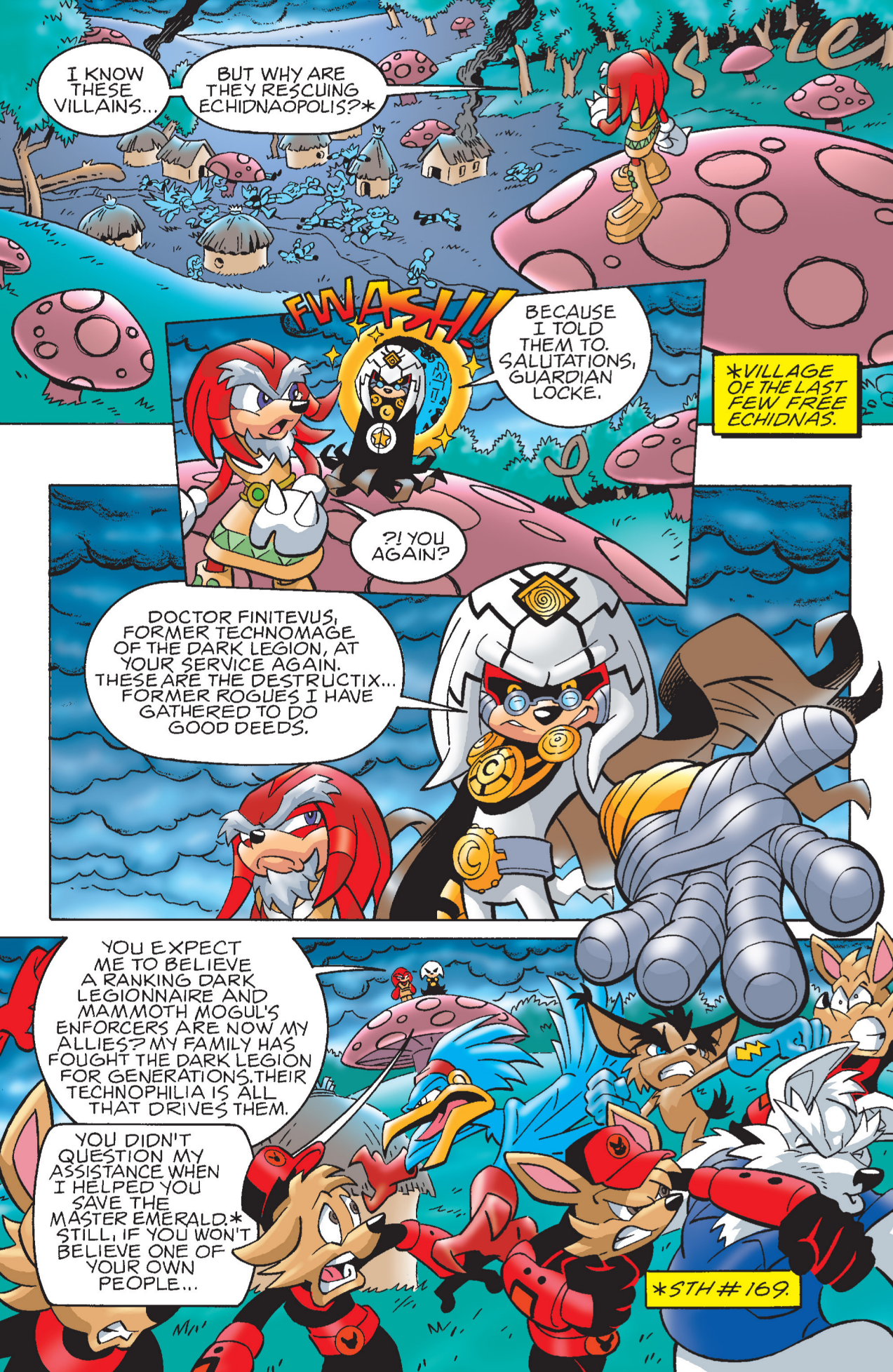
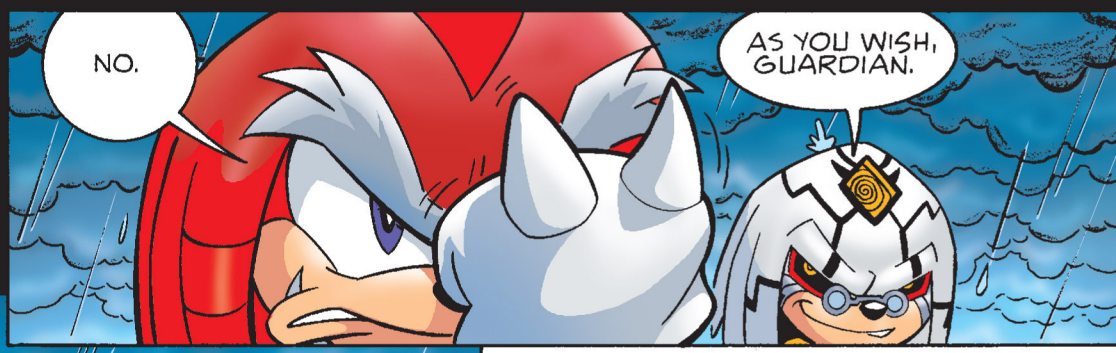
KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA LEFT ANGEL ISLAND AND THE MASTER EMERALD TO BETTER PROTECT MOBIUS. HIS FATHER LOCKE HAS TAKEN OVER THE GUARDIAN DUTIES--BUT WITH DECREASING INTENSITY. LOCKE IS DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR HIS FOREFATHERS ...THE BROTHERHOOD OF GUARDIANS... AND NOW WILL DO ANYTHING TO FIND THEM...
ENFORCERS
ECHIDNA-OPOLIS, ANGEL ISLAND...
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO TAKE! LEAVE US IN PEACE!
HOW ABOUT I LET YOU REST IN PEACE, ECHIDNA?!
THOP!
DON'T WORRY, FOLKS. THE DESTRUCTIX ARE HERE NOW.
WRITER: IAN FLYNN
PENCILLER: TRACY YARDLEY!
INKER: TERRY AUSTIN
LETTERER: JOHN WORKMAN
COLORIST: JASON JENSEN


I KNOW THESE VILLAINS...
BUT WHY ARE THEY RESCUING ECHIDNAOPOLIS?*
FWASH!!
BECAUSE I TOLD THEM TO. SALUTATIONS, GUARDIAN LOCKE.
*VILLAGE OF THE LAST FEW FREE ECHIDNAS.
?! YOU AGAIN?
DOCTOR FINITEVUS, FORMER TECHNOMAGE OF THE DARK LEGION, AT YOUR SERVICE AGAIN. THESE ARE THE DESTRUCTIX... FORMER ROGUES I HAVE GATHERED TO DO GOOD DEEDS.
YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE A RANKING DARK LEGIONNAIRE AND MAMMOTH MOGUL'S ENFORCERS ARE NOW MY ALLIES? MY FAMILY HAS FOUGHT THE DARK LEGION FOR GENERATIONS. THEIR TECHNOPHILIA IS ALL THAT DRIVES THEM.
YOU DIDN'T QUESTION MY ASSISTANCE WHEN I HELPED YOU SAVE THE MASTER EMERALD.* STILL, IF YOU WON'T BELIEVE ONE OF YOUR OWN PEOPLE...
*STH #169.

...THEN PERHAPS YOU'LL BELIEVE ONE OF YOUR ANCESTORS.
IT IS ALL TRUE, LOCKE. DOCTOR FINITEVUS SAVED WHAT WAS LEFT OF ME AFTER THE DARK LEGION SPLIT IN TWO.
DIMITRI IS MY ANCESTOR, BUT HIS DESCENDANTS FORMED THE DARK LEGION. WE'VE ALREADY BEEN OVER THIS.
WHAT WILL IT TAKE, LOCKE? SADLY, I COULD NOT FIND ANY OF THE BROTHERHOOD TO CONVINCE YOU. I'M SURE YOU CAN RELATE.
YOU KNOW...?
I DO. AND IT IS WHY I KEEP RETURNING TO HELP. EVERYONE BELIEVES THE BROTHERHOOD GAVE THEIR LIVES DEFENDING THIS ISLAND. YOU KNOW BETTER, LOCKE. PLEASE ALLOW ME AND THE DESTRUCTIX TO KEEP YOUR ISLAND AND THE MASTER EMERALD SAFE.
TAKE ONE OF MY *WARP RINGS* AND FIND YOUR FOREFATHERS. WE NEED THEM TO BRING STABILITY TO THIS ISLAND. TO OUR HOMELAND.

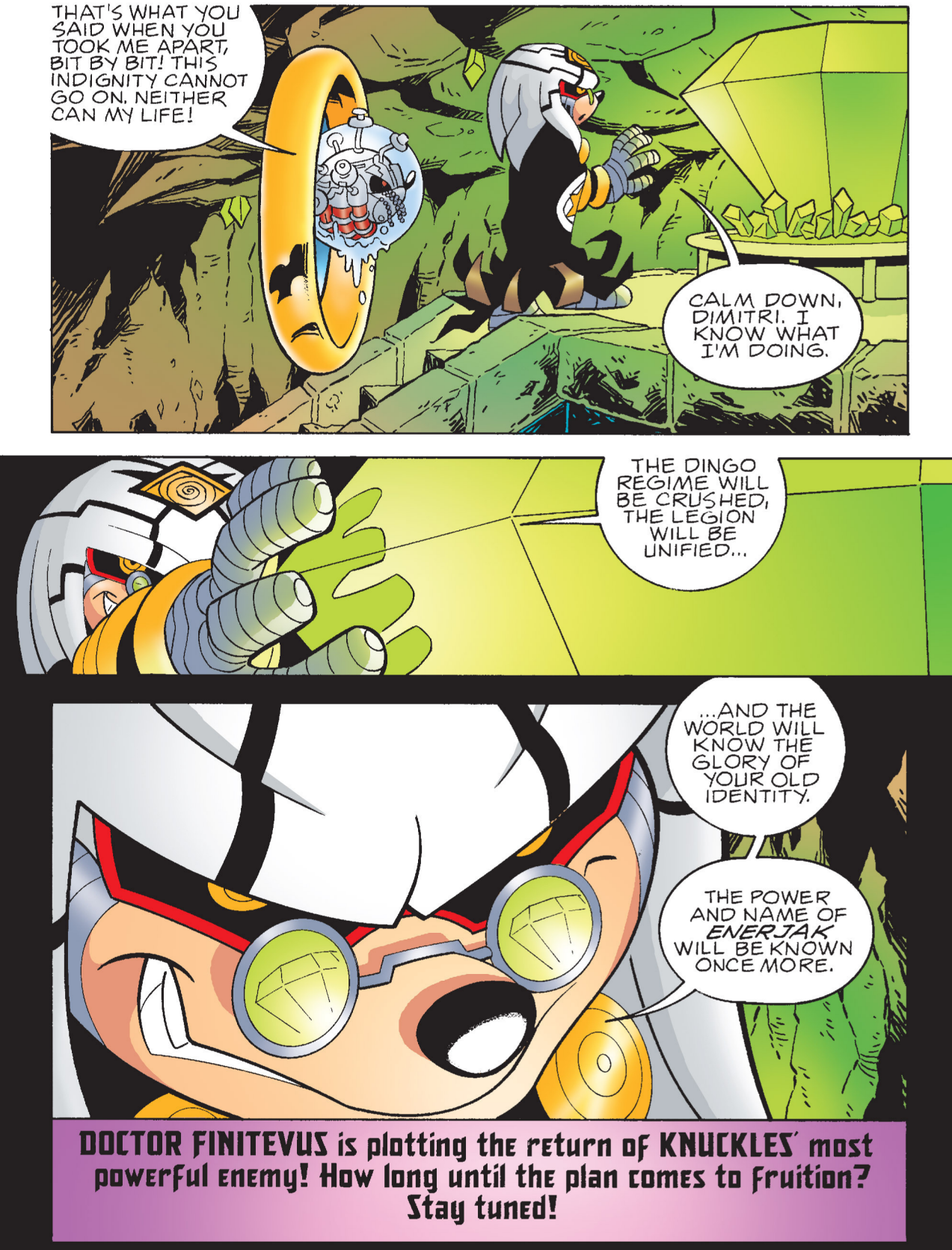
PERHAPS...
IF YOU PREFER, I COULD ATTEMPT TO SUMMON KNUCKLES TO ASSIST US...?


NO.
AS YOU WISH, GUARDIAN.

FWAKOOO
PING

I WILL RETURN FREQUENTLY TO CHECK UP ON YOU.
BUT OF COURSE. I HOPE THAT WE WILL EVENTUALLY WIN YOUR TRUST.

FWASH
ALL TOO EASY.
FWSHH
THERE. I LIED TO HIM, YOU MONSTER. NOW FULFILL YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN.
IN TIME, DIMITRI.


THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID WHEN YOU TOOK ME APART, BIT BY BIT! THIS INDIGNITY CANNOT GO ON. NEITHER CAN MY LIFE!
CALM DOWN, DIMITRI. I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
THE DINGO REGIME WILL BE CRUSHED, THE LEGION WILL BE UNIFIED...
...AND THE WORLD WILL KNOW THE GLORY OF YOUR OLD IDENTITY.
THE POWER AND NAME OF ENERJAK WILL BE KNOWN ONCE MORE.

DOCTOR FINITEVUS is plotting the return of KNUCKLES' most powerful enemy! How long until the plan comes to fruition? Stay tuned!